

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-17, 19-23, 25 and 27-49 are pending, with Claims 1, 6-10, 15, 19 and 27 amended, and Claims 5 and 18 canceled by the present amendment.

In the Official Action of June 30, 2006, Claims 1-10, 12-23, 25 and 27-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawai (U.S. Patent 6,137,485) in view of Comstock (*sic* U.S. Patent 5,692,073).

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the telephone interview between the Examiner and Applicants' representative on October 24, 2006 in which the Examiner acknowledged that the Official Action contains a typographical error and that Comstock should be identified as U.S. Patent 6,704,769 not U.S. Patent 5,692,073.

Claims 1 and 15 are amended to recite the features of cancelled Claims 5 and 18, respectively. Claim 27 is also amended to recite the features of cancelled Claim 18. Claims 6-10 and 19 are amended for antecedent basis. This amendment materially reduces issues for appeal. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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